

PRESS RELEASE
Preliminary Results Labour Force Survey
May 2018

Since November 2017, employment has increased by 4,525 persons (or 2.2%) from 203,730 to 208,255 in May 2018.

There were increases in both the number of employed and unemployed persons. However, there was no significant change in the unemployment rate between November 2017 (10.1%) and May 2018 (10.0%).

Two of the three most populated islands that were surveyed experienced increases in their unemployment rates, and one experienced a decline. At the time of the survey (**April 29 – May 5, 2018**), the rate in Grand Bahama was 12.4% and Abaco 10.7%. In contrast, New Providence's unemployment rate declined from 10.6% in November 2017 to 10.0% in May 2018.

Among the total employed labour force, there were more men (107,815) than women (100,440). Additionally, in all the islands surveyed except Abaco, men were higher in numbers among the unemployed labour force.

The vulnerable employment declined by 10.0%, from 16,370 (May 2017) to 14,740 (May 2018). The rate now stands at 7.1% of total employment.

There are more males (8,265) than females (6,475) in this category. These workers as defined by ILO are less likely to have formal work arrangements, and more likely to lack decent working conditions and are often characterized by inadequate earnings and benefits

Unemployment among youths (15-24 years) in the country continued to be considerably higher than any other age group which is common to most countries. Their unemployment rate increased from 22.1% in November 2017 to 24.1% in May 2018.

Discouraged workers in the country increased by 6.9% over the six month period. New Providence and Grand Bahama experienced increases in the number of discouraged workers- 7.3 % and 2.5%, respectively. However, discouraged workers in Abaco declined by 2.7%. These persons, according to the standard definition of the International Labour

Organization (ILO), “did not look for work because they believed no jobs were available for them.

The Department of Statistics is the Government Agency in The Bahamas mandated by law to collect, process, analyze and disseminate statistics. Its mandate is to deliver timely official statistics. Please contact the Department of Statistics @ 242-604-4000 for questions and enquiries. This release, with accompanying tables, will be immediately available on the Department’s website, www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics. Further details will be available by September 2018.

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: MAY 2018

ISLAND	SEX	TOTAL LABOUR FORCE	EMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	UNEMPLOYED LABOUR FORCE	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
ALL BAHAMAS	TOTAL	231,445	208,255	23,190	82.5%	10.0%
	WOMEN	111,540	100,440	11,100	76.1%	10.0%
	MEN	119,905	107,815	12,090	85.0%	10.1%
NEW PROVIDENCE	TOTAL	161,330	145,205	16,125	76.3%	10.0%
	WOMEN	78,865	71,165	7,700	73.9%	9.8%
	MEN	82,465	74,040	8,425	80.2%	10.2%
GRAND BAHAMA	TOTAL	31,920	27,965	3,955	69.5%	12.4%
	WOMEN	15,685	14,015	1,670	65.1%	10.6%
	MEN	16,235	13,950	2,285	75.6%	14.1%
ABACO	TOTAL	13,645	12,180	1,465	78.9%	10.7%
	WOMEN	5,800	5,015	785	72.1%	13.5%
	MEN	7,845	7,165	680	86.2%	8.7%

THE LABOUR FORCE AND ITS COMPONENTS: 2014 - 2018

ITEMS	May-14			Nov-14			May-15			Nov-15			May-16			Nov-16			May-17			Nov-17			May-18				
	ISLAND	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	
Total Labour Force																													
All Bahamas	198,710	98,800	99,910	206,050	102,585	103,465	208,895	103,290	105,605	212,195	103,940	108,255	215,880	104,815	111,065	217,750	106,420	111,330	222,035	106,890	115,145	226,680	109,135	117,545	231,445	111,540	119,905		
New Providence	141,655	72,080	69,575	147,750	75,110	72,640	148,545	74,480	74,065	150,315	73,830	76,485	153,590	75,590	78,000	155,315	76,435	78,880	157,120	76,655	80,465	159,110	77,695	81,415	161,330	78,865	82,465		
Grand Bahama	27,250	13,080	14,170	27,690	13,170	14,520	28,000	14,060	13,940	29,230	15,170	14,060	28,710	14,180	14,530	29,190	14,190	15,000	29,865	14,530	15,335	30,975	15,150	15,825	31,920	15,685	16,235		
Abaco	8,995	3,860	5,135	9,905	4,525	5,380	10,360	4,405	5,955	10,660	4,595	6,065	11,465	5,145	6,320	11,700	5,145	6,555	12,110	5,385	6,725	13,255	5,570	7,685	13,645	5,800	7,845		
Employed Labour Force																													
All Bahamas	171,275	84,400	86,875	174,245	85,240	89,005	183,915	89,915	94,000	180,820	86,300	94,520	188,360	89,660	98,700	192,385	91,495	100,890	200,155	95,210	104,945	203,730	97,005	106,725	208,255	100,440	107,815		
New Providence	120,400	60,820	59,580	124,060	61,515	62,545	130,750	64,760	65,990	126,430	60,430	66,000	133,365	64,100	69,265	135,350	64,350	71,000	140,740	67,730	73,010	142,285	68,525	73,760	145,205	71,165	74,040		
Grand Bahama	23,235	10,730	12,505	22,545	10,645	11,900	24,400	12,050	12,350	25,090	12,660	12,430	24,500	11,785	12,715	25,300	12,180	13,120	26,160	12,335	13,825	27,240	13,235	14,005	27,965	14,015	13,950		
Abaco	7,795	3,265	4,530	7,895	3,495	4,400	9,095	3,880	5,215	9,630	3,985	5,645	10,305	4,675	5,630	10,640	4,460	6,180	11,165	5,025	6,140	12,115	5,125	6,990	12,180	5,015	7,165		
Unemployed Labour Force																													
All Bahamas	27,435	14,400	13,035	31,805	17,345	14,460	24,980	13,375	11,605	31,375	17,640	13,735	27,520	15,155	12,365	25,365	14,925	10,440	21,880	11,680	10,200	22,950	12,130	10,820	23,190	11,100	12,090		
New Providence	21,255	11,260	9,995	23,690	13,595	10,095	17,795	9,720	8,075	23,885	13,400	10,485	20,225	11,490	8,735	19,965	12,085	7,880	16,380	8,925	7,455	16,825	9,170	7,655	16,125	7,700	8,425		
Grand Bahama	4,015	2,350	1,665	5,145	2,525	2,620	3,600	2,010	1,590	4,140	2,510	1,630	4,210	2,395	1,815	3,890	2,010	1,880	3,705	2,195	1,510	3,735	1,915	1,820	3,955	1,670	2,285		
Abaco	1,200	595	605	2,010	1,030	980	1,265	525	740	1,030	610	420	1,160	470	690	1,060	685	375	945	360	585	1,140	445	695	1,465	785	680		
Labour Force Participation Rate																													
All Bahamas	72.9%	69.1%	77.4%	74.4%	71.0%	78.1%	73.0%	71.5%	78.5%	75.6%	71.9%	80.5%	76.9%	72.0%	81.2%	77.2%	74.2%	82.1%	80.0%	74.0%	83.1%	81.0%	75.3%	84.2%	82.5%	76.1%	85.0%		
New Providence	77.3%	70.9%	78.0%	77.5%	73.9%	81.5%	74.5%	71.3%	76.4%	74.7%	70.7%	79.5%	75.9%	71.1%	80.3%	76.9%	72.3%	81.2%	75.9%	72.6%	79.0%	76.4%	73.2%	79.7%	76.3%	73.9%	80.2%		
Grand Bahama	76.9%	76.9%	75.8%	71.3%	65.1%	78.0%	70.1%	66.5%	72.6%	72.5%	71.7%	73.3%	68.4%	66.6%	73.7%	68.2%	67.5%	74.9%	68.9%	64.1%	75.1%	69.3%	64.7%	75.5%	69.5%	65.1%	75.6%		
Abaco	71.5%	71.5%	75.4%	75.7%	72.4%	79.0%	75.5%	63.8%	77.5%	77.3%	70.3%	84.0%	77.6%	70.8%	84.2%	77.8%	70.9%	84.7%	78.2%	71.4%	85.2%	78.5%	71.8%	85.9%	78.9%	72.1%	86.2%		
Unemployment Rate																													
All Bahamas	13.8%	14.6%	13.0%	15.7%	17.3%	14.1%	12.0%	12.9%	11.0%	14.8%	17.0%	12.7%	12.7%	14.5%	11.1%	11.6%	14.0%	9.4%	9.9%	10.9%	8.0%	10.1%	11.1%	9.2%	10.0%	10.0%	10.1%		
New Providence	15.0%	15.6%	14.4%	16.0%	18.1%	13.9%	12.0%	13.1%	10.9%	15.9%	18.1%	13.7%	13.2%	15.2%	11.2%	12.9%	15.8%	10.0%	10.4%	11.6%	9.3%	10.6%	11.8%	9.4%	10.0%	9.8%	10.2%		
Grand Bahama	14.7%	18.0%	11.8%	18.6%	19.2%	18.1%	12.9%	14.3%	11.4%	14.2%	16.5%	11.6%	14.7%	16.9%	12.5%	13.3%	14.2%	12.5%	12.4%	15.1%	9.8%	12.1%	12.6%	11.5%	12.4%	10.6%	14.1%		
Abaco	13.3%	15.4%	11.8%	20.3%	22.8%	18.2%	12.2%	11.9%	12.4%	9.7%	13.3%	6.9%	10.1%	9.1%	10.9%	9.1%	13.3%	5.7%	7.8%	6.7%	8.7%	8.6%	8.0%	9.0%	10.7%	13.5%	8.7%		

EMPLOYMENT: PERMANENT AND VULNERABLE: 2012 - 2018

TABLE IV

ITEMS	May-12			May-13			May-14			May-15			May-16			May-17			May-18		
	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
Total Employed Labour Force																					
All Bahamas	160,650	80,450	80,200	163,995	80,835	83,160	171,275	84,400	86,875	183,915	89,915	94,000	188,360	89,660	98,700	200,155	95,210	104,945	208,255	100,440	107,815
New Providence	121,410	61,590	59,820	122,155	61,030	61,125	120,400	60,820	59,580	130,750	64,760	65,990	133,365	64,100	69,265	140,740	67,730	73,010	145,205	71,165	74,040
Grand Bahama	20,635	10,335	10,300	20,215	9,745	10,470	23,235	10,730	12,505	24,400	12,050	12,350	24,500	11,785	12,715	26,160	12,335	13,825	27,965	14,015	13,950
Permanent Employment																					
All Bahamas	145,880	73,500	72,380	150,220	74,700	75,520	159,210	78,995	80,215	168,925	84,285	84,640	172,270	83,085	89,185	183,785	88,615	95,170	193,515	93,965	99,550
New Providence	112,945	57,595	55,350	112,215	56,540	55,675	113,885	57,620	56,265	119,135	60,415	58,720	121,560	58,825	62,735	131,830	63,725	68,105	135,185	66,745	68,440
Grand Bahama	17,960	9,075	8,885	18,305	8,945	9,360	21,325	10,095	11,230	23,175	11,590	11,585	23,035	11,660	11,375	22,105	11,045	11,060	26,465	13,565	12,900
Vulnerable Employment (1)																					
All Bahamas	14,770	6,950	7,820	13,775	6,135	7,640	12,065	5,405	6,660	14,990	5,630	9,360	16,090	6,575	9,515	16,370	6,595	9,775	14,740	6,475	8,265
New Providence	8,465	3,995	4,470	9,940	4,490	5,450	6,515	3,200	3,315	11,615	4,345	7,270	11,805	5,275	6,530	8,910	4,005	4,905	10,020	4,420	5,600
Grand Bahama	2,675	1,260	1,415	1,910	800	1,110	1,910	635	1,275	1,225	460	765	1,465	125	1,340	4,055	1,290	2,765	1,500	450	1,050

(1) Employment with contract or agreement with limited duration

DISCOURAGED WORKERS BY ISLAND SEX AND WORK EXPERIENCE: MAY 2018

ISLAND AND SEX	TOTAL DISCOURAGED WORKERS	WORKED BEFORE	NEVER WORKED
ALL BAHAMAS			
TOTAL	2,175	1,370	805
MEN	975	625	350
WOMEN	1,200	745	455
NEW PROVIDENCE			
TOTAL	1,325	915	410
MEN	490	340	150
WOMEN	835	575	260
GRAND BAHAMA			
TOTAL	205	125	80
MEN	105	55	50
WOMEN	100	70	30
ABACO			
TOTAL	190	95	95
MEN	40	30	10
WOMEN	150	65	85